

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

B 1. (Currently Amended) Method of drying ~~coated and/or impregnated objects (1; 5)~~ that comprise a plurality of regions, in particular fibres, that are each uniformly structured, ~~in particular for drying~~ lacquered wood, in cases such that a lacquer coating agent and/or impregnation agent (22) applied to ~~a~~ the surface of the a wooden object (1; 5) contains a solvent ~~[[and/]]~~ or dilution fluid, ~~in particular water~~, that is to be driven out ~~[[and/]]~~ or bound during drying, and such that the solvent or dilution fluid has the property of penetrating into the wooden object in the undried state with the result that ~~[[the]]~~ uniformly structured regions (4) change their position in the wooden object (1; 5) and, after a characteristic period of time following application of the lacquer, impregnation or coating agent (22), alter the surface structure in such a way as to make secondary treatment of the surface necessary or desirable, comprising:

~~characterized in that completing the drying is completed before the characteristic period of time has elapsed[[,]] by irradiating the coated or impregnated surface of the wooden object~~ with infrared radiation.

2. (Currently Amended) Method of drying a lacquered wooden object coated and/or impregnated objects (1; 5), in particular lacquered wood, in cases such that a lacquer coating agent and/or impregnation agent (22) applied to ~~a~~ the surface of the wooden object (1; 5) includes a component (6), ~~in particular colouring pigments~~, with the properties that

the ~~[[its]]~~ presence of the component in ~~a~~ the region of the surface ~~[[and/]]~~ or in the lacquer coating (2) ensures ~~the~~ a desired quality of the coating (2) ~~or impregnation~~, however

in the undried condition the component ~~[[it]]~~ penetrates into the wooden object (1; 5) and after a characteristic period of time following application of the lacquer, impregnation or coating agent (22) it the component is no longer present in sufficient quantity in the region of the surface ~~[[and/]]~~ or in the lacquer coating (2), so that a ~~secondary treatment of the surface, in particular a secondary lacquering[[,]]~~ is necessary or desirable, comprising:

~~characterized in that completing the drying is completed before the characteristic period of time has elapsed[[,]] by irradiating the coated or impregnated surface of the wooden object~~ with infrared radiation.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the infrared radiation comprises substantial components in the near infrared, which bring about the drying, ~~in the near infrared, in particular at wavelengths below 1.0 m.~~

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 3, characterized in that the infrared radiation has a spectral radiation flux density maximum in the near infrared, ~~in particular at a wavelength below 1.0 m.~~

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 4, characterized in that the infrared radiation is emitted as thermal radiation from a radiation emitter (12) that is heated to temperatures of 2500 K or higher, ~~in particular 2900 K or higher.~~

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the drying is completed within 5 seconds, ~~in particular within 3 seconds,~~ after the application of the lacquer impregnation or coating agent.

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7. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the wooden object (1; 5) being processed is conveyed continually in a longitudinal direction, in the course of which the wooden object [[it]] first passes through an application zone in which the lacquer coating and/or impregnation agent (22) is applied to the wooden object to produce a lacquered wooden object, and that the object (1; 5) ~~or more specifically its coated or impregnated lacquered longitudinal sections~~ wooden object ~~are~~ is then conveyed into a drying zone in which the lacquered ~~coated or impregnated~~ surface is irradiated with the infrared radiation.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 7, characterized in that the object, (1; 5) ~~or more specifically its coated or impregnated lacquered longitudinal sections~~ wooden object enters ~~enter~~ the drying zone immediately after leaving the application zone or after having partially passed through the application zone.

9. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 8, wherein the application of the lacquer impregnation or coating agent (22) in the application zone is brought about by a stream of gas that carries along the lacquer impregnation or coating agent (22), which is contained in a reservoir, and deposits the lacquer ~~[[it]]~~ on the surface of the wooden object (4; 5), characterized in that before the stream of gas reaches the reservoir, the stream of gas ~~[[it]]~~ is used to cool an infrared radiation source (11) and/or to cool other components (16, 18, 19) involved in the irradiation in the drying zone, ~~such as reflectors, radiation filters and/or partitions transparent to radiation.~~

B 10. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, including providing an infrared lamp (11) to dry ~~[[an]]~~ the wooden object (4; 5) coated or impregnated with lacquer a coating agent and/or impregnation agent (22), ~~in particular to dry lacquered wood.~~

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 10, wherein the infrared lamp (11) is a halogen lamp.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 10, wherein the infrared lamp (11) is constructed as a tubular radiator with an incandescent filament (12) that extends linearly within a tube (13) that is transparent to radiation, ~~in particular within a quartz glass tube.~~

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 12, wherein the infrared lamp (11) is combined with a reflector element (10) that extends along the tube (13) and in cross section has a grooved groove-like structure ~~[[,]]~~ enclosing a back side of the tube in such a way that the infrared radiation is intensified by addition of reflected radiation to the radiation emitted towards a ~~the~~ front side of the tube.

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for lacquering a wooden object ~~coating and/or impregnating objects, in particular wooden objects~~, comprising:

an application chamber (20) for continuously applying a lacquer to the wooden object ~~an impregnation or coating agent~~, and

a transport mechanism for continuously transporting the wooden object ~~objects~~ from the application chamber (20) to an irradiation device (10-19) for drying the ~~impregnation or coating agent~~ lacquer,

wherein the transport mechanism is so constructed that the ~~the~~ [[its]] ~~of the~~ speed of the transport mechanism is adjustable in such a way that the wooden object can be conveyed from the application chamber (20) into the irradiation device (10-19) and thereby dried within less than 5 seconds.

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15. (New) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the infrared radiation comprises substantial components at wavelengths below 1.0 μm , which bring about the drying.

16. (New) Method according to Claim 3, characterized in that the infrared radiation has a spectral radiation flux density maximum at a wavelength below 1.0 μm .

17. (New) Method according to Claim 4, characterized in that the infrared radiation is emitted as thermal radiation from a radiation emitter that is heated to temperatures of 2900 K or higher.

18. (New) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the drying is completed within 3 seconds after the application of the lacquer.

19. (New) Method according to Claim 10, wherein the infrared lamp is constructed as a tubular radiator with an incandescent filament that extends linearly within a quartz-glass tube.
